

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

Letters and packages should be properly sealed.

Volume XXXIV.....No. 143

RELIGIOUS SERVICES TO-DAY.

CHURCH OF THE SAVIOUR.—REV. J. M. PULMAN. Morning and evening.

COOPER INSTITUTE.—FREE PREACHING. Morning and evening.

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION.—BISHOP BEVELL. Morning and evening.

EVERETT ROOMS.—SPIRITUALISTS.—MRS. BRIGHAM. Morning and evening.

FREE CHURCH OF THE HOLY LIGHT.—REV. EARTH-BURN BENJAMIN. Morning and evening.

FORTY-SECOND STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—REV. DR. W. A. SCOTT. Morning and evening.

JOHN STREET METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.—REV. W. F. CORRIE. Morning and evening.

MURRAY HILL BAPTIST CHURCH.—REV. DR. SIDNEY A. COKEY. Morning and evening.

WADSWORTH SQUARE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—REV. EVANGLIN. Evening.

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH.—Morning.—REV. DR. PRICH. Evening.—REV. W. A. SCOTT.

ST. LUKE'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.—Morning.—REV. DR. MCCLINTOCK. Evening.—REV. S. S. FOSTER.

SPIRITUAL MANIFESTATIONS. Hall corner of Eighth avenue and sixteenth street.

ST. LUKE'S M. E. CHURCH.—Morning.—REV. JOHN MCCLINTOCK. Evening.—REV. S. S. FOSTER.

UNIVERSITY. Washington square.—BISHOP SNOW. Afternoon.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Sunday, May 23, 1869.

THE HERALD IN BROOKLYN.

Notice to Carriers and Newsdealers.

BROOKLYN CARRIERS AND NEWSMEN will in future receive their papers at the BRANCH OFFICE of the NEW YORK HERALD, No. 145 Fulton street, Brooklyn.

ADVERTISEMENTS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS and all letters for the NEW YORK HERALD will be received as above.

THE NEWS.

Europe.

The cable telegrams are dated May 22. The London Times, Spectator and Pall Mall Gazette of yesterday again criticize Senator Sumner's speech on the Alabama claims.

A large meeting was held in Belfast, Ireland, on yesterday, to protest against disestablishment of the Irish Church.

The republican press of Madrid are of opinion that a federal republic will be the eventual form of government in Spain. Queen Isabella proposed to abdicate in favor of the Prince of Asturias. The Colonial Minister has resigned.

Baron Von Gerolt, Prussian Minister to Washington, arrived in Berlin yesterday.

The Danes are irritated because the United States did not purchase the Island of St. Thomas.

China and Japan.

Advices by the steamer China at San Francisco are dated Hong Kong April 19 and Yokohama April 23. The Mikado of Japan had gone to Jeddo, where a general congress of the princes of the empire was ordered to assemble. Several leading daimios had surrendered their territories and sovereign rights. Hakodadi was still in rebellion, and the Mikado's fleet was expected to attack it. The American Minister in China had been making a tour through the south. A terrible drought was prevailing in the neighborhood of Peking. Velocipedes were numerous in Shanghai.

Cuba.

The authorities have reduced the tonnage dues on American vessels in accordance with our recent reduction in favor of Spanish tonnage.

Mexico.

A despatch from San Francisco states that the revolution in Sinaloa, Mexico, is ended. The insurgents were defeated in the mountains and dispersed, losing all their arms and munitions of war. Another uprising under General Placido Vega was, however, expected to take place.

Miscellaneous.

It is stated that the public debt statement at the end of the month will show a decrease of \$7,000,000. About 400 banks have been acting as depositaries of the public money. Only \$15,000 are on deposit in New York and Brooklyn, while the Treasury holds a million and a half of securities, the Bank of Commerce having just withdrawn another half million of them.

In regard to the Texas election, President Grant stated yesterday that the time would not be decided until after the election in Virginia, but that he should direct General Reynolds to go on with the registration.

Captain George Brown, who commanded the ram Stonewall on her trip to Japan, has returned, and reported yesterday to the Navy Department.

The Commercial Convention at Memphis has adjourned sine die.

A Jewish couple in Washington were divorced according to the rites of the Jewish Church on Thursday.

The Arapahoes and a few Cheyennes have come into Camp Supply, near Fort Dodge, Kansas, to receive provisions, and a detachment of the Tenth Cavalry is on the way to place them on their reservations.

The liabilities of the Royal Canadian Bank of Toronto are stated to be \$1,000,000, and the assets \$3,000,000. The bills are selling at eighty and ninety cents on the dollar, and the directors assure the depositors and noteholders that they are in no danger of loss.

Edwin Belcher, a colored Assessor of Internal Revenue in Georgia, who wrote to Charles Sumner and two radical newspapers an account of the murder of certain radicals by the rebel citizens, publishes a card in a Georgia paper, saying that he has reason to believe he was mistaken, as the murdered men are alive.

The City.

The proceedings in the Presbyterian Assemblies yesterday were of unusual interest. The reunion of the two Churches was again discussed as well as other subjects of peculiar interest, including politics in the pulp and the Grand Army of the Republic. A full report of the proceedings will be found elsewhere in the HERALD this morning.

Three of the persons charged with complicity in the murder of City Marshal Lippmann were admitted to bail by Coroner Schirmer yesterday, but a fourth, Theodore Budlin, was held, as he is believed to know the actual murderer and to have assisted in secreting him.

Coroner Flynn held an investigation on the body of Charles Gallagher, the man who was found drowned off Riker's Island about ten days ago with a rope around his body. The wife of deceased identified the body and stated that she suspected certain parties of having murdered him. The jury, however, were unable to find any evidence of violence and rendered a verdict of drowning.

In the United States District Court yesterday, the charge against Mr. Otto Scholmer for not having sufficiently obliterated internal revenue stamps used by him on his wine casks, was dismissed, and his stores, which were in the custody of the government officers, were turned over to him.

The new Commissioners of the Paid Fire Department of Brooklyn held a meeting and organized yesterday by the election of Mr. Massey as president.

A trot took place at Fashion Course yesterday between four horses for a stake of \$100 each. The track was heavy and good time was out of the

question, and on the third heat all the horses were declared distanced. The bets were off and the stake drawn amid considerable grumbling.

Thomas Leonard, a boy of seventeen, committed suicide in Brooklyn yesterday by hanging himself to a beam in the cellar of an unoccupied house.

The stock market yesterday was comparatively quiet. Quotations were irregular, but generally lower at the close. Gold was more steady, in the vicinity of 141 1/2.

Prominent Arrivals in the City.

General Clinton B. Fiske, of St. Louis, and Rufus J. King, of Dayton, Ohio, are at the St. Nicholas Hotel.

John McTea, of Louisiana, and S. B. French, of Virginia, are at the New York Hotel.

Lieutenant G. A. Converse, of the United States Navy, and Dr. J. Adams, of Boston, are at the Westminster Hotel.

General P. D. Roddy, of Alabama, and J. C. McGroarty, of Nashville, Tenn., are at the Malloy House.

Lieutenant Commander M. Leland, of Pennsylvania; Colonel E. Geddings, of Washington Territory, and Judge L. G. DeForest, of Cleveland, are at the St. Charles Hotel.

Colonel E. J. Maxwell, of West Point; General H. Welsh, of Birmingham, N. Y.; P. W. Wright, of Geneva; Colonel M. Wells, of Niagara Falls; Albert Steel, of Nevada; W. Prescott Smith, of Baltimore, and John R. Tye, of London, England, are at the Metropolitan Hotel.

Mr. Thornton, of Washington, is at the Clarendon Hotel.

General Mann, of Albany; R. H. Morey, of Richmond; C. Wolf, of Valparaiso; Colonel G. Knapp, of St. Louis; D. C. Littlejohn, of Buffalo; Colonel Thos. Ewing and Colonel Williamson, of England, are at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

A. M. Clapp, of Washington; James Dwyer, of Texas; J. H. McBride, of New Orleans; W. H. Moss, of Japan, and D. D. Howell, of St. Augustine, are at the Hoffman House.

Rev. H. Buntingham, of St. Louis; Senator Nix and James Twiggler, of Elkhart, are at the Astor House.

Mr. H. W. Halliwell and five other members of the Philadelphia Board of Education are at the Hoffman House.

John Worth, United States Consul at the Sandwich Islands, arrived yesterday morning direct from Honolulu via Pacific Railroad.

Prominent Departures.

Senator F. W. Osborn, Rev. Dr. Osborn, Senator Zach. Chandler and family, Rev. Dr. Hill and wife, of British Columbia; Lord Mountcashel, of Dublin; General Don Francisco Selles, of Cuba; Rev. Dr. Gilette and wife, of New York; Mr. George Otis, of Wells, Fargo & Co., and family, Mr. McGregor J. Mitchell and wife, of Philadelphia, sailed yesterday in the steamship City of Brooklyn for Liverpool.

A. D. Schierenbeck and family sailed in the steamer New York for Bremen.

General George H. Thomas, of the United States Army, is at the Everett House and will leave for California to-morrow for the overland route.

Professor Henry Smith and Captain W. J. Mitchell sailed yesterday in the steamship India for Glasgow.

Rev. A. T. Porter sailed yesterday for Charleston in the steamship Magnolia.

Major Fritchard, of the United States Army, left yesterday for Washington; Captain Connor, for San Francisco; Colonel J. Halliday, for Connecticut; Mayor Beach, for Troy; E. A. Buck, for Buffalo; W. H. Hawley, for Philadelphia, and Washington Lee, for Boston.

The Assemblies—Presbyterian Reunion.

New York after all is not an irreligious city. We welcome our friends. We are disposed to be agreeable. This does not fully state the case. We mean to be, and we are, civil, hospitable and kind. The month of May has always brought to us crowds of strangers. The strangers as a general rule have been more or less religious. They have come in a religious name and under a religious connection. We have never been indifferent to the cause of progress; and as we have always thought that the cause of progress had to do with religion we have ever been attentive to the latest development of the religious principle. In New York the great religious development of the hour has a close and intimate connection with Presbyterianism.

The fact is suggestive. When we remember that we have here representatives of all the nationalities who took part in the great reformation struggle we do not wonder that the United States of America should, within her borders, see revived all the questions and feel the force of all the troubles which for many years antedate the Reformation. We have in this country a visible development of the religious principle which no nation of the past ever knew and which no nation of the past ever dreamed was possible. We have Catholics by the million, of the purest type, men and women, philosophers and others, who are willing to pin their faith to the doctrine that the fisherman of Galilee, Peter by name, was the first occupant of the See of Rome. We have Protestants by the million who call this nonsense, who are prepared even to go further and call it a swindle and a fib. We have another class who are also to be counted by the million and who will not have it that they are either Catholics or Protestants, but who have a lingering liking to the name of Christian. We have yet another class, too numerous and too thoughtful to be overlooked, a class which is religious and yet not Christian, a class which is highly respectable, which goes in for all the nobler outcomes of what is called modern progress, but which insists that reason and faith must go hand in hand. In no country in the world is there so large a development of the religious principle as there now is in the United States of America, and it is but just to conclude that in no country in the world has the religious principle so fair a chance of an honest outcome as it has in this country. Here we have the mother church, here, too, we have all the sectarians, from the Protestant Episcopalians represented by Dr. Dix, rector of Trinity, who is evidently sorry that he has lost all his chances of being a cardinal and a Pope maker, down to Brigham Young, who is resolved, in spite of Jesus Christ and in spite of St. Peter, to be a second and a grander Mohammed. New York city is the modern Jerusalem. This is the month during which the tribes come up. To-day the tribe which is most powerfully represented is not the tribe of Judah, or the tribe of Levi, or the tribe of Mohammed, or the tribe of Cranmer. It is rather the tribe of Luther, of Calvin, of John Knox. The Presbyterians are here to-day in full blast. We bid them welcome, and we wish them all success.

We have been glad to notice that during the course of the past week some progress has been made in a direction which commands the sympathy of the American people and of the world, and which from all quarters compels the wish, "God speed you." We must be allowed, however, to say that, much as we commend the union spirit, and much as we are willing to honor the two Presbyterian Assemblies for the course they have entered upon and for the conduct they have exhibited, we doubt whether union on a large scale is compatible with Presbyterian principles. Divisive

courses have been connected with Presbyterianism so long that many honest and enlightened minds have come to the conclusion that the manifestation of the spirit of union is a sign of weakness rather than a sign of strength. Protestantism, in fact, has preserved its honor so much by means of the episcopacy that men of Christian leanings have almost everywhere come to the conclusion that a central bishop is a central necessity, and that away from episcopacy Christian unity is an impossibility. Within the Protestant domain we point to the Church of North Germany, to the Church of England and to the most prosperous of all the churches of the United States, the Methodist Episcopal. Beyond the limits of the Protestant Church we point to the grand example of the Church of Rome. In matters spiritual it does seem as if a central and visibly embodied power were a cardinal necessity.

Union, however, among the protesting churches is not the less desirable for anything that we have said. If Christianity is ever to be a force among men, a controlling power among the so-called heathen, it must be because of the unity of front which it presents. Here we want to know what Christianity is. We need to feel its force. We are not unwilling that we should feel it. Our difficulty is very much the difficulty of the heathen. We want to see our spiritual teachers agreed. We have not time to examine all these questions; we must trust so far. Trust, however, becomes impossible when all those who ought to know are at variance. If the Presbyterians can agree to unite it will be a hopeful sign. We shall look for a union which shall include not only all shades of Presbyterianism, but the Dutch Church, the Episcopal Church and even the Catholic Church. Then, but not till then, shall we have Christian unity. If not before, then surely will come the millennium.

England and Our National Securities.

Americans need no new proofs of English jealousy and hostility. If they did, the recent deliberate effort of the Bank of England to force our national securities from the London market would be conclusive on the point. The Bank of England is the representative of the British government. In one sense it is the government. The popular investment in United States five-twenties has been growing, year by year. Great Britain at the present time probably holds one-fourth of our national debt. The fact is a very unpleasant one to the aristocrats, who have had the bill for the damages done by the Alabama again placed before them by the speech of Senator Sumner. If the people of England hold our securities how can they be induced to support a war against us? They not only like what they have, but they want more of our securities. The consols of an ancient and decrepit system of government are poor securities in comparison with the promises-to-pay of a fresh, enterprising people, who mean to discharge every dollar of their debt, have already commenced to do so, and are impatient that they cannot do so right away.

Yet, with all this jealousy and dislike of us, there are papers in our midst which take sides against us and with our English opponents in the matter of the Alabama claims. They are the Reverend Johnsons of the American press. Fortunately, they are not leaders or exponents of public opinion, or the situation might be misunderstood. They depreciate such a thing as a war with England, because it would, they say, ruin our commerce and bankrupt us. Let us look at the facts. The United States gives employment to millions of operatives in England and France. A war with us would drive these people to rebellion. A foreign war, by closing our ports, would delight the great party of protectionists. While it lasted our mills would be running night and day, and new ones would spring up on the banks of our Southern rivers, to produce the materials for our armies. Our Western States could feed the whole world forever. But the salient point is this:—We import more than we export. The United States is the patron of the manufactures of Europe. During the expired four months of the present year we have bought sixty millions more of Europe than we sold to her. A war, therefore, which would close our ports—hermetically seal them, even—would be an actual saving to the country of nearly two hundred millions of dollars in the year. A brief calculation will show that a war with England would soon pay off the national debt.

SLAUGHTER ON THE RAIL.—Three men have been killed and a number of others seriously wounded by an accident which occurred on the Mount Holly and Burlington Railroad, New Jersey, last Friday. In this instance the cause of slaughter was an explosion of the engine—a melancholy variety from that which produced the Long Island disaster and other recent catastrophes of a like nature. The train was loaded with coal only, and hence the loss of life was limited, although the scene of local ruin is very extensive. The noise of the terrific explosion was the only warning which the victims had of their approaching fate, as well as the signal by which the residents in the neighborhood were informed that death was at their doors. The engine is described as worn out and rusty and neglected by the engineer on the trip. These matters will be fully investigated during the Coroner's inquest, which will open to-morrow. This railroad slaughter occurred last Friday, but was reported to New York only last night. The directors did not court publicity. That's plain fact.

THE DIPLOMACY OF THE SULTAN.—The Prince and Princess of Wales have been received with a lavish display of Oriental hospitality and magnificence by the Sultan of Turkey. The entertainment of his royal visitors eclipses in its gorgeous Eastern embellishments even the Arabian stories of the splendors of the Caliphs of Bagdad and Damascus. But the Sultan knows what he is about. He was very handsomely received some two years ago at Windsor by the Queen of England, and was still more handsomely served by the English with the French in the Crimean war. He was then in a bad way, and but for England and France would have been moved out of Constantinople to make room for the Russian Bear. The Sultan remembers all this, and with an eye to the windward in his hospitalities to his royal English visitors, he shrewdly calculates that the time may come again when his friends on the Thames may be needed in the Desphorus.

China and Japan.

By steamship at San Francisco and thence by overland telegraph we have interesting advices from the far East dated at Hong Kong, China, the 19th and Yokohama, Japan, the 20th of April. In the matters of commercial interest and personal intercourse between these countries and the United States and anticipatory of the ultimate trade and traffic of the Pacific Railroad, we may set out with the fact that the vessel landed 1,810 passengers and a large and valuable cargo in California. China was afflicted with a long continued drought, treasury robbers and unfavorable weather generally. Trade was exceedingly dull at Shanghai, and the inhabitants had commenced to amuse themselves with velocipede exercise. Japan remained unsettled, but the cause of a uniform and stable executive rule was improving under the Mikado, many of the daimios lately in rebellion having returned to their allegiance or given a friendly aristocratic support to his cause. The city of Hakodadi remained, however, in the possession of his enemies, and the imperial fleet was being organized for an assault—a movement which disturbed trade injuriously. Jeddo was not yet opened to foreign commerce, native jealousy inducing an adherence to the system of native exclusivism. Business in the markets was consequently limited, politics injuring trade, as in many other countries just at present. The far East evidently requires a little "stirring up," in some shape or other, from the Great West.

GENERAL GRANT'S PROCLAMATION ON THE EIGHT HOUR LAW.—In this proclamation, upsetting the construction of the law as applied by the Navy Department, General Grant simply enforces the letter and the spirit of the act of Congress, making eight hours a day's work to workmen in the government service, without any reduction of the wages paid before for a day of ten hours. The laboring classes of the country will be gratified with this decision of the President. It is a Napoleonic idea. Now, then, if General Grant will only "assume the responsibility" of a proclamation or two on some of the great international questions of the day, in the line of the public sentiment of the country, his popularity in the Cabinet will soon eclipse his glory in the field. And why not, when he has everything to gain by prompt and decisive action, and everything to lose by waiting for a more convenient season?

MORE OF IT.—The London press on the Alabama claims, again. Sir Francis Head on the Canadian rebellion of 1837, again. Irishmen debating the Church question, again. There were two hundred thousand of the sons of Erin assembled on this, the latest, occasion. If they all spoke at one time—which is very likely—the Church is either triumphant as the deposit of faith or completely capped as a modern Tower of Babel—which?

ONE MORE RELATION TO THE FRONT.—There appears to have been some mistake about the appointment of the new Minister to Guatemala. It was said that the appointee was a colored man, like the Minister to Hayti; but we are assured by reliable information from Washington that the Minister accredited to Guatemala is a white man, and, more than this, that he is a relation of the President—one more of the family who is prepared cheerfully to obey the order, "another relative to the front."

KENTUCKY COMING ROUND.—Kentucky at last is beginning to open her eyes to the important fact that the nigger has some rights which white men are bound to respect, that Judge Taney's Dred Scott decision has lost its force since the abolition of slavery, and that something must be done to meet the new order of things. The Louisville Courier thinks that negroes ought to be allowed to testify in the courts, that "negro testimony is right in principle," and that "it is demanded by common sense;" and the Courier speaks from the outcroppings of the controlling public opinion. Kentucky never did understand the war; for she got into it on both sides, and when she got out of it she seemed to consider State sovereignty established under Jeff Davis. But, finding that the thirteenth and fourteenth amendments of the constitution are accepted by the United States Courts in the State, Kentucky is beginning to come round.

A TEMPERT IN A TEAPOT.—Copenhagen is deeply "frittered" because the American Senate would not authorize our people to purchase the island of St. Thomas. Why should they be angry? The bargain was broken by earthquakes, which unsettled the foundations of the estate so that our topographers were unable to describe the exact location of the property. Mr. Seward is the only man who can trace it, and he is not in Washington at present.

SPANISH POLITICS.—The democratic journals of Madrid say that Spain will have a republican form of government "sooner or later." Persons at this distance imagined the country was ruled by the people already. Queen Isabella offers to abdicate the throne in favor of her son. It was generally supposed that her throne had been taken from her long ago. Spanish history is becoming muddled.

GENERAL BUTLER'S REMEDY FOR GEORGIA.—It is said that General Butler has recommended to the President, as a cure for the murders of Union men in that disorderly State, a system of military terrorism that will make whole communities responsible for the assassinations in their midst, and thus cause the murderers to be brought to punishment. This is the policy of border ruffianism. We think that General Grant will be able, without much difficulty, to discover some better plan for the restoration of law and order in Georgia, and we had supposed that Georgia was reconstructed.

ANDY JOHNSON'S LATE PRESPECTING TOUR.—It appears that Andy Johnson, after having made a political prospecting tour of Tennessee, has returned home with the idea that he was out of the State too long; that in his absence everything was turned upside down, and that he is inclined to abandon the Herculean task of setting things right side up. He ought to take out a new policy, or show what he can do in a new field in the cultivation of corn and rye, those favorite staples of East Tennessee.

The Ship News Question—The Health Officer and the Duty of Governor Hoffman.

When a public officer notoriously violates a public trust or converts it into a vehicle for his own personal aggrandizement, to the detriment of the interests of the community, it is the bounden duty of the appointing power to remove the man from the place forthwith and put a more worthy person in it. That the present Health Officer of this port has compromised his reputation as a faithful public servant there is abundant evidence to prove. It is notorious that he has permitted smuggling to be carried on through the boats of his department; that he has subjected vessels and cargoes from foreign ports to unnecessary and vexatious delays, thereby inflicting a permanent injury upon the commerce of this city; that he has made the apprehensions of yellow fever a pretence or cloak to cover up some ulterior and selfish designs; that he has his own fleet of tugboats and lighters, to which masters of vessels are compelled to pay tribute every time they come into this harbor; that he so manages the office as to realize from it an income of two hundred thousand dollars per annum, instead of the respectable salary to which he is entitled; that the tyranny and extortions of his subordinates are themes of complaint upon the tongue of every ship-merchant in the port as well as every shipping master who sails into it. These things, we say, are notorious, and yet our merchants and shipmasters, as well as the multitudes of passengers who are constantly arriving here, are obliged to submit to them or suffer an augmentation of the evils they labor under through either the malice, the indifference or the incompetency of the Health Officer and his subordinates.

The public are aware that this same Health Officer has thrown obstacles in the way of an important HERALD enterprise for the purpose of collecting ship news in this harbor by the aid of steam yachts—an enterprise in which every merchant in the city is interested, and one which meets the heartiest commendations from all whose business lies in the line of ships and shipping. The facilities afforded by this means to the consignees of vessels coming in, in the way of notifying their shipmasters at what dock or particular point they are to haul up, are of acknowledged value; and as our ship news agents are instructed to furnish to consignees and others information of the arrival of their ships free of any charge whatever, and to convey packages or information from owners to masters on the same terms, we unfortunately come in conflict with a fee which the Health Officer exacts from consignees on giving similar information. Moreover, we do not wish our business interests marred or endangered by the impertinent interference of anybody, and much less do we wish so important a department as the ship news, in which nearly every class in this community has more or less concern, managed by any person over whom we can exercise no control. We propose to collect the ship news of this port in our own way for our own columns for the benefit of our readers. We do not wish to be classified with those parsimonious contemporaries who, rather than incur a trifling additional expense, submit to the dictum of this self-installed Cerberus of New York harbor, and take such scraps of ship news as he, in his ignorance of such matters, may dole out to them, or which his subordinates may have a pecuniary interest in either giving or withholding.

We have already expended a heavy amount of money in collecting ship news in this harbor. We are now expending regularly every week a large sum, and we mean to expend still more, having already a new steam yacht of much larger dimensions than those we now employ in process of construction, in order to maintain the high character the HERALD has all along, from the date of its existence to the present hour, enjoyed for the fulness, accuracy and earliness of its shipping reports. We do not intend to be thwarted in this purpose so long as we maintain the lead in metropolitan journalism. We want no Health Officer for our ship news reporter. Let him stick to his pills and his lotions, his drugs and his chemicals, his powders and his potions, and his apothecary shop generally; but he can be no ship news officer of ours with our consent. If other papers choose to accept his filterings as regular ship news reports, let them, in their poverty, do so. The HERALD can afford to take another and a nobler course, thanks to the liberality of our fellow citizens. It can afford to be independent as well as to establish a system for the collection of ship news of its own. It does not by any means desire to be exclusive in this matter. On the contrary, the HERALD has offered to furnish all the other New York papers with its own ship news reports upon the payment of simply a pro rata of the expense incurred in collecting it. This, it must be acknowledged, is just and fair, and wipes out any charge of an attempt to monopolize the business that may be raised.

It is annoying, therefore, to have obstacles thrown in the way of an enterprise so important to our merchants and shipmasters as those that the present Health Officer, from selfish and sordid motives, is now attempting to cast before it. If that officer were one in whom the merchants and community generally had confidence, or who had earned a high place in public estimation for his fidelity, honesty, capability and self-abnegation in the discharge of his duties, we might have less cause for complaint. But as the reverse is notoriously the case we have no other course to pursue but the one we have marked out, namely—to go right straight ahead, neither halting nor turning to the right nor to the left in attaining the object in view, and that is to continue to supply the merchants and shipmasters of New York with shipping reports which will be superior to those of any other journal published in this city. Meanwhile we learn that a petition will be presented to Governor Hoffman, signed by a large number of our most influential merchants, urging the removal of the present Health Officer and giving therefor ample and sufficient reasons.

A WASTE OF FOOD FOR GUNPOWDER.—In New Orleans, by the Spaniards and Cubans there, in quarrelling and fighting duels over the Cuban question. Such heroic fellows ought to be able to find out some way to get into Cuba, where they could fight to some purpose.

The Committee of Ways and Means in the Custom House.

For some days past the Committee of Ways and Means of Congress (House of Representatives) have been looking into the *modus operandi* of the business of the New York Custom House, and it is their purpose to overhaul it thoroughly in all its various departments, with a view to "economy, retrenchment and reform." Some others of the principal custom houses are in like manner to be overhauled. *Prima facie* this is a good idea; for surely from a careful examination of the machinery of the custom houses our lawmakers at Washington will better understand than they have understood how to regulate all this complex machinery so as to prevent frauds and leakages in the revenue. Judging, however, by our Albany investigating committees, from time to time sent down to this city, and even by some sent up from Washington, we are not very sanguine of any great things in the way of retrenchment and reform from Mr. Schenck's committee. We trust, however, that it will amount to something better than the expenses of the Albany committee (including wines, liquors, cigars, the "Forty Thieves," the *opera bouffe*, &c.), and will give some equivalent for the printing expenses of one of those long reports which, after being printed and circulated, are bundled off, without reading, to the grocer. In a word, it is to be hoped that Mr. Schenck's committee are acting with a view to business, for practical reforms, and not, as usual with these committees, for a voluminous report of rubbish.

The Right Policy.

The copperhead press of the North are industriously working to persuade the people of the unreconstructed States of Virginia, Mississippi and Texas to reject the State constitutions awaiting their action, so as to prevent in each case a State organization and Legislature, whereby, under the terms of Congress, the fifteenth amendment (equal suffrage regardless of color) must be adopted. The design of the Northern copperhead organs is to defeat this amendment in order to keep out the Northern negro vote, of which they are afraid, and so they are urging upon the Southern States directly concerned the policy of keeping themselves out in the cold to accommodate the Northern copperhead politicians. But we are glad to see that the Southern conservatives in the unreconstructed States are acting for themselves—that, as the Richmond *Whig* puts it, they "are not all democratic partisans of the Bourbon stripe, stone blind to all the changes that have been brought by a sweeping revolution and doggedly bent upon sacrificing Southern material interests to unreasoning spite," but that the Southern people, struggling for life and a prosperous future, are in no mood for "entangling party alliances." Of such encumbrances they have had enough, and henceforward they will, in consulting their own interests, take their own course. This is sound sense, and upon this platform, even under the fifteenth amendment, the white man's party of the South will soon become the black man's party. Go ahead.

The Fashions.

That the sway of fashion now extends over every class in society and out of it, is manifest from our Paris correspondent's last letter, which includes minute descriptions of the lovely Trianon toilet of Mlle. Nilsson at her farewell concert; of the agonizingly rushed black and white robe of Mme. de Metternich at the Sunday races in the Bois, making the Austrian ambassador look like a bundle of dirty curtains, half black and half white; of the short and frilled toilet, with cassques and panner bows behind, worn at the same races respectively by ex-Queen Isabella in red, covered with black lace and diamond jewelry; the Duchesse d'Assum in brown, the Marquise de Canisy in blue and white, the Comtesse de Janze in black and silver and the wife of Marshal Canrobert in gray and red; of the bright light salmon toilet covered with lace, in which the most striking of the demi-monde queens, Mlle. Marcovitch, in a couple lined with sky blue, was conspicuous; of the elegant costume of strawberries-and-cream shade worn at the races by the *bouquetiere* Isabella, and finally, of the last dinner toilet of the Empress Eugenie—a lovely moonlit gray train over a white satin, with narcissus and diamonds shining in her plaited coils of hair—and of the white and pink toilet of the Duchesse de Mouchy.

Our anonymous "imperialists" have not yet erected a palace of the Tuilleries anywhere in New York, and we have, therefore, to describe no such dinner toilets as those of the Empress Eugenie and the Duchesse de Mouchy, although several of our own "queens of society" might well afford to wear them. Nor have we yet any Sunday races, at which ladies and Marcovitches and *bouquetieres* can rival each other in elegant and extravagant toilets. But notwithstanding the rains and chilling winds which have thus far provokingly delayed the advent of real spring weather and the accompanying full display of spring fashions, we may expect, before June, days sunshiny enough to make Broadway, Fifth avenue and the Park flutter as gayly as the Bois de Boulogne, at the races, with white muslin, mauve, gauze, crape and lilac shades.

Yesterday afternoon was so bright that many carriage and promenade costumes of the latest Paris style were exhibited in the Park and on the splendid avenues that lead to it. Truth compels us to add, however, that our ladies have not all escaped that confusion of ideas which used formerly to be still more prevalent than now, and by which alone we can account for the fact that gorgeous "carriage costumes" and "costumes for home," dinner toilets, opera cloaks, and even ball dresses, "morning walking costumes" and "afternoon costumes" may all be sometimes seen at the same hour on a fair day, indiscriminately, "walking down Broadway." But this willful defiance of European rules has, at least, the advantage of enlivening and diversifying the aspect of our streets. It affords, moreover, to the wives and sisters and daughters of the country clergy attracted to the city anniversaries an opportunity of witnessing a more brilliant series of living pictures of Vanity Fair than any fashion plates represent. Our country cousins must also admire New York on wheels; for vehicles at once so light and strong and beautiful are not to be seen in any other city in the world. An American writer has said that "we are dandies in our carriages as